

# WE ARE A PECULIAR PEOPLE

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## Introduction:

1 Peter 2:9-10: But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people: that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Dictionary.com defines 'peculiar' as strange, odd, unusual, interestingly weird; the word 'peculiar' is used about seven times in the Bible and every time, it is used to describe a possession, a valued property, a treasure.

- A. The Word of God calls us a 'peculiar people'.
- B. The world sees a true Disciple of Christ as 'peculiar' in the sense of:
  - 1. Strange: beliefs; ways of thinking, etc.
    - a. Forgiveness instead of revenge.
    - b. Giving instead of taking/holding back.
    - c. It's strange to believe that we never die.
  - 2. Odd: behavior; ways of doing things, etc.
    - a. Serving others instead of expecting preferential treatment.
    - b. Give and not expecting anything in return.
    - c. Rejoicing at the 'death' of a saint instead of mourning.
  - 3. Unusual: talking; ways with words, etc.
    - a. Speaking positive words instead of negative words.
    - b. Praising God instead of cursing God or someone in God's

Name.

- 4. Interestingly weird (my personal favorite!)
  - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
    - 1. We don't mourn like the world mourns. They don't have any hope.
    - 2. We have a Hope and His name is Jesus.
  - b. **John 14:1-4**
    - 1. We don't fear the 'mystery' of death.
    - 2. We have the Word of Jesus, that He is preparing a place for us; so that where He is, there we will be also.
    - 3. We have a Hope and His name is Jesus.

c. **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

1. We've been told the secret truth about an event planned by God.

2. We have a Hope and His name is Jesus.

d. **Revelations 1:6** -- God sees the true disciple of Christ as 'peculiar' in the sense of:

1. A possession: kings, priests, royal race.

2. A valued property: a kingdom.

3. A treasure: ever loved by Him who once and for all loosed and freed us from our sins by His own blood.

II. Romans 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ.

A. Reign means to 'rule over'.

B. It is in this life that we need to rule:

1. We rule the devil.

2. We rule sickness.

3. We rule poverty.

C. How do we rule over them?

1. Through law.

2. Your mouth makes the law. (remember, you're a king!)

3. What you decree is what will be established for you in this life.

D. Matthew 18:18

1. The word 'bind' means to 'declare unlawful' and the word 'loose' means to 'declare lawful'.

2. We bind and loose through our declarations.

3. We declare through our mouths.

E. How do you predict your future?

1. You must choose what you want in life.

2. You must know that God's Word promises it to you.

3. Then you decree it!

4. You speak it as though it were law.

### III. James 3:2-10 The rudder to your life is your tongue.

A. James is taking us back to Genesis where God gave Adam dominion.

B. Adam's dominion extended beyond the animal kingdom.

C. God told him to rule everything; that included the devil and demons

D. Mankind's dominion has been limited.

1. Why? Because there's one area that man can't control and that's the tongue.

2. Because of this, man can't rule like God intended him to rule.

3. This is why man can be so defeated in life.

a. Sickness can destroy him.

b. Poverty can pulverize him.

c. Natural catastrophes can demolish him.

d. He can rule the animals, but he can't rule the elements in the world.

4. If man can get control of his tongue, he can rule completely and thoroughly.

a. **James 3:2**

b. If you never say the wrong things you are able to control your whole body.

c. If you say the wrong things, then you are out of control.

d. If you are out of control, then someone else is in control.

5. What wrong things do we say?

a. Anything that is contrary to God's Word is the wrong thing to say!

b. If you say the right thing--God's Word--then your whole body is lined up and under your control.

c. Your body will line up with the words of your mouth.

d. Now you can understand why certain things happen.

6. The Bible says that if you never say the wrong thing, then you're a perfect man able to control your body.

a. This is dominion.

b. This is control.

c. You can have it.

d. We are talking about a 'peculiar people'.

1. Example: You are at the mall parking lot and you see a man kicking his car and cursing it: 'you no good for nothing piece of junk! I don't know why I bought you! You are a lemon!'

2. Does that surprise people? Do they think that is odd?

3. But what if you see a man smiling at his car, hugging it and saying, 'Oh, I love you my special car! You are so good to me! You never break down; I'm so glad I bought you!'

4. You'd think that guy is weird!

5. You'd think that something is wrong with him because he is so positive.

6. The world is set up on the negative.

7. Most people are accustomed to the negative.

8. But now you don't have to be negative.

9. Your tongue can be used for good, however, it's up to you.

10. Don't verbalize your fears! Verbalize your FAITH!

F. Notice that James used 3 examples to describe the tongue.

1. A rudder to a ship.

2. A bit in a horse's mouth.

3. A small spark.

G. A rudder is used to determine the direction of a ship.

1. The wind may be blowing from the west, and normally the ship would be blown off course, but with a rudder, the ship can go right into the storm and stay on course.

2. The same is true of your tongue.

a. The winds of sickness and poverty may be blowing against you, but by the rudder of your tongue you can sail right into the storms of life and go the opposite direction.

b. You don't have to be carried away by the storms of life.

c. You chart your course by the words of your mouth.

#### IV. Determine your destiny.

A. Just as a rudder determines the destiny of a ship, so you are determining the destiny of your life by the words you speak.

B. Your words are predicting your future.

C. The tongue is also like a bit in a horse's mouth.

1. A horse may want to go one way, but the bit tells the horse where to go.

2. The rider is in charge because he is in control of the bit.

D. Your tongue can destroy your life.

1. James describes it as a little spark that sets a forest on fire.

2. This little spark sets the whole course of your life on fire.

3. Your tongue sets the whole course of your life.

4. Your course is the future direction of your life.

5. Your tongue determines the future of your life.

a. Simple little words can destroy your life.

1. Nothing ever works for me.

2. I'm always getting sick.

3. I'm never going to amount to anything.

4. I never have enough to pay my bills.

b. These words are like little sparks that do not look devastating, but they can set your life on fire from hell.

c. You give hell permission, through your words, to bring these things in your life.

6. James 3:10-12

a. You cannot say that you are healed and prosperous, and then also say that you are sick and poor.

b. You can't say one thing and then contradict yourself by saying something else.

c. You cannot use your tongue that way and expect positive results.

d. James is saying that if you have both fresh water and salt water coming from the same spring, then you get salty water.

E. The fresh water doesn't overcome the salty. Salt will always make fresh water salty.

F. The same is true of the tongue.

1. Your negative words will always cancel out your positive words.

2. The reason is simple: we live in a negative world that has been plunged under a course.

3. The world is like a stream: water always flows downward.

4. It takes greater effort to go up the stream.

5. This is why you can say so many positive words, and then in a

moment of doubt say one thing that's negative and you will end up canceling your positive confession.

6. This is why you must guard your tongue!

E. Don't get under condemnation and fear over your negative words; just ask the Lord to forgive and He will cancel out your negative words.

Conclusion:

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out from darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

It's time to chart a new course for your life.

Do it by speaking words of life; words of health; words of prosperity; words of victory; words of success. All the time! Guard your tongue and don't say anything that does not agree with God's Word.

See, we are a peculiar people; We swim upstream. We go against the flow. We are interestingly weird.

